

**CLAIMS**

1. Process for checking the preloads applied on a  
5 nuclear fuel assembly, through clamping means installed  
in defined positions inside a housing provided in a  
transport container, the said process comprising the  
following successive stages:

- insertion, in the said housing, of a check template  
10 fitted with force measurement means actually  
localized right up against each of the said  
positions; and
- simultaneous measurement of the forces exerted by all  
the clamping means installed in the housing.

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2. Process according to claim 1, in which the  
forces measured are later compared with the predefined  
minimum and maximum values.

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3. Process according to claim 2, in which the said  
comparison is made by means of measurement processing  
software.

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4. Process according to claim 2, in which the  
results of the said comparison are displayed.

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5. Process according to claim 1, in which the  
check template is fitted with force measurement means  
on two adjacent sides of the said template.

6. Process according to claim 1, in which measurement means constituted by load cells are used.

7. Device for checking the preloads applied on a  
5 nuclear fuel assembly through clamping means installed  
in defined positions inside a housing provided in a  
transport container, in which the device comprises a  
check template suitable for being inserted in the  
housing, the said template being equipped with force  
10 measurement means suitable for being actually localized  
right up against each of the said positions when the  
template is placed in the housing in order to make a  
simultaneous measurement of forces exerted by all the  
clamping means installed in the housing.

15 8. Device according to claim 7, comprising  
moreover processing means suitable for comparing the  
forces measured with predefined minimum and maximum  
values.

20 9. Device according to claim 8, in which the  
processing means comprise measurement processing  
software.

25 10. Device according to claim 8, comprising  
moreover means for displaying the results issued by the  
processing means.

30 11. Device according to claim 7, in which the  
measurement means are placed on two adjacent sides of  
the check template.

12. Device according to claim 7, in which the measurement means comprise load cells.

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